

## Aspects to consider in a design specification

### What is a design specification?

- ✓ A *specification* is a set of considerations, constraints and requirements for a solution: what the solution must or must not have to be successful. A specification is **not** a description of the outcome.
- ✓ Every aspect of a specification must be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and testable (SMART).
- ✓ The specification should be directly connected to the design brief. Writing a specification can be a difficult job if the design brief is not well researched and written. If a solution or design fails to meet an aspect of the specification, it can be considered that it has not met the criteria for success.
- ✓ Students will need to refer back to the specification throughout the project, particularly when developing ideas and evaluating the solution.
- ✓ When writing a specification, students should consider including details addressing the aspects in table above.

<b>Aesthetics</b>	Consider appearance, style, colour, shape/form, texture, pattern, finish, layout.
<b>Cost</b>	Is there a maximum cost? Is this a material cost/time cost/selling cost?
<b>Customer</b>	Who it is for? What is the target user's age, gender, socio-economic background?
<b>Environmental considerations</b>	Where will the solution be used? How will the design directly or indirectly affect the environment?
<b>Function</b>	What it must do? What is its purpose? Where will the product be stored? How easily can it be used/maintained?
<b>Manufacturing</b>	What resources are available? Are there limitations as to how this can be created? How much time is needed to create the design?
<b>Materials</b>	What materials are available? What properties do the materials need to have?
<b>Safety</b>	What safety factors need to be incorporated into the design?
<b>Size</b>	Are there any specific sizes that need to be considered? What "human factors" need to be considered? What anthropometric data needs to be considered?